

County of Los Angeles  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES**

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July 18, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION TO APPROVE LOS ANGELES COUNTY PLAN FOR  
REFUGEE EMPLOYMENT SOCIAL SERVICES AND TARGETED  
ASSISTANCE FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2005-06  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Approve the attached County Plan for Refugee Employment Social Services (RESS) and Targeted Assistance (TA) for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2005-06. The plan addresses how the County, under its administration of the Refugee Employment Program (REP), utilizes the RESS and TA grants to fund services for refugees and asylees residing in Los Angeles County.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

The California Department of Social Services' Refugee Programs Bureau requires Los Angeles County to submit a RESS/TA Plan to demonstrate how the County plans to deliver services to the County's refugee population. The County's 2006 RESS/TA Plan covers FFY 2005-06 and documents the County's administration of the Refugee Employment Program (REP).

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

The State requires counties to submit a County Plan on an annual basis. The Plan for FFY 2005-06, originally due to the State in June 2005, was not prepared by Community and Senior Services prior to the administrative transfer of the Refugee Employment Program to DPSS in April 2005. Following State notification that the FFY 2005-06 Plan was required, DPSS developed and cleared the Plan with stakeholders, the State and County staff. Additionally, community forums were conducted and the Plan has now been certified by the California Department of Social Services.

REP is the County's program designed to provide culturally and linguistically sensitive employment, training and specialized services for refugees. The goal of the REP Program is to assist refugees in attaining self-sufficiency. Services under this program are available to all refugees who are aided through the CalWORKs, Refugee Cash Assistance (RCA), and General Relief (GR) Programs or not aided through a public assistance program.

Refugees are eligible for REP services for the first five years after entry into the United States. Asylees (individuals, who on their own, travel to the United States, apply for, and receive a grant of asylum) are eligible for REP services for the first five years after the date they attain asylee status.

DPSS currently administers the REP program through contracts with eight (8) community-based refugee agencies. These contracts were due to expire June 30, 2006, but Board approval was granted to extend the term on a month-to-month basis through December 31, 2006, pending the outcome of the solicitation process.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS:**

The recommendations are consistent with the principles of the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal #1: Service Excellence, Strategy #2: Design seamless service delivery systems, and Goal #5: Improve Children and Families Well-Being.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

The Refugee Employment Program is financed through RESS/TA grants allocated to the County by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement, through the State Refugee Programs Bureau.

The RESS and TA grants follow the federal fiscal year, which starts in October and ends in September of the following year. The County's total RESS and TA grant allocations for the FFY 2005-06, were \$2,527,674 and \$1,872,030, respectively. The costs are included in the County FY 2006-07 adopted budget.

**FACTS AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

The Los Angeles RESS/TA Plan fulfills the requirement pursuant to the State regulations Welfare and Institutions Code Section 13275-13282. and MPP Sections 42-800 to 42-811, 69-200.

**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES:**

Approval of the plan will allow for the continued provision of employment services to the refugee population through the REP program.

**CONCLUSION:**

Upon approval by the Board, the Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, is requested to return four (4) copies of the adopted, stamped Board Letter to the Department of Public Social Services.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryce Yokomizo  
Director

BY:bh

Attachment

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisor  
          Chief Administrative Officer  
          County Counsel  
          Auditor Controller